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Sen. Connie Sipes
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INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 30, 2009
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Senate Chambers
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Sen. Dennis Kruse, Chairperson; Sen. Carlin Yoder; Sen. James Buck; Sen. Frank Mrvan; Sen. Earline Rogers; Sen. Connie Sipes; Rep. Greg Porter, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh; Rep. Charles Moseley; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Jeffrey Thompson; Rep. Randy Truitt.

Members Absent: None.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and called upon members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

Afterschool Programs

The Chair called upon Dr. David Klinkose, Executive Director, Indiana Afterschool Network, to explain the organization's role. Dr. Klinkose stated that the network brings together the stakeholders and resources needed to provide quality afterschool programs

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

for children to assist in leveraging sustainable funding to expand afterschool programs and provide transportation, enhance and promote quality standards and evaluation, and influence policy on behalf of Indiana's youth. Debbie Zipes, Associate Director, Indiana Afterschool Network, presented information concerning the value afterschool programs provide for children through enrichment opportunities, and for parents by providing a safe place for the children. (Exhibit A)

The Chair introduced Sen. Jim Arnold, who authored the resolution during the 2009 legislative session of the Indiana General Assembly that referred the issue of afterschool programs to the Committee. Sen. Arnold spoke briefly about his reasons for offering the resolution. He stated that his background in law enforcement gave him many examples of the need for afterschool programming to give children a place to go during nonschool hours and as a help to parents who could not be home to supervise their children.

The Chair then called upon Dr. Roy Fowles of Purdue University North Central. Dr. Fowles runs a service project through the University in the Michigan City schools that examines whether future delinquency can be predicted from elementary school behavior. (Exhibit B) Using existing school data, the study has found that students in afterschool programs are less likely to engage in violent behaviors, cause trouble in school, and be absent from school. The afterschool children also perform better academically.

Melanie Brizzi, the administrator of the Indiana School Age Child Care Program, Division of Family Services, Family and Social Services Administration, discussed the work of the School Age Child Care Program (Exhibit C), which provides state funding for school age child care programs run by school corporations and certain non-profit organizations. For the 2009-2010 fiscal year, 27 agencies have been awarded grants for 81 different sites, serving approximately 5,500 children.

Sandra Quarles-Towne, Indianapolis Public Schools, pointed out that the majority of juvenile crimes take place after school and during the summer. (Exhibit D) Ms. Quarles-Towne spoke of the need for additional funding to serve more students on a more consistent basis.

Mary Roberson, Perry Central Community School Corporation, spoke of the need for afterschool programs in rural areas, such as Perry Central, in which the school is one of the few places to gather in the community.

Toni Kayumi, YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne, pointed out that the YMCA is the largest nonprofit provider of child care, including afterschool programs, in the United States. In Fort Wayne, one YMCA has partnered with the Fort Wayne Community Schools to develop individual academic plans for each child who participates in the program. The YMCA provides scholarships for many of the children who attend the programs.

Chad Zaucha, YMCA of Clay County (which also serves Putnam County), stated that the YMCA provides afterschool services for 250 children in four satellite centers serving nine elementary schools and two middle schools.

Heather Perkins, YMCA of Greater Indianapolis, explained that the YMCA offers before- and afterschool programs that include eight core curriculum content areas, incorporating Indiana state standards for each lesson plan.

Anna Blankenship and Theresa Mason, parents of children who attend afterschool programs offered by AYS, spoke of the benefits the programs have provided to their children, as well as the benefits they have received as working parents by having the

children in safe programs.

Gail Zeheralis, Indiana State Teachers' Association (ISTA), acknowledged the need for quality afterschool programs for additional learning opportunities, but pointed out the core issue for these programs, as for all education programs, is sustainable and adequate funding.

Frank Bush, Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA), pointed out that school corporations can, and many do, offer afterschool programs, if resources are available. Funding of the programs remains the major issue for school corporations.

John Ellis, Indiana Public School Superintendents Association (IPSSA), stated that the Association supports afterschool programs.

Chuck Little, Indiana Urban Schools Association (IUSA), believes it is critical to give children additional opportunities and a safe place to be after school hours.

School Start Date and Calendar Flexibility

The Chair introduced Rep. Ryan Dvorak, who authored a bill concerning school calendar flexibility during the 2009 legislative session. He distributed information concerning the number of hours of instructional time offered by school corporations as well as an education policy brief prepared by the Center for Evaluation and Education Policy. (Exhibit F)

Tina Bruno, Save Indiana Summers, distributed information concerning the results of polls on their website concerning the start date for school years. (Exhibits G and H)

Becky Bechtel, Save Indiana Summers, stated that children cannot concentrate in extreme heat situations, such as typically occurs in August.

Alfredo and Jennifer Casetti, concerned parents, want their children to have a long summer break to allow them to decompress after the school year. After noticing that the school year began earlier each year, they attempted to find out why the calendar was changing, and were unable to find any party willing to accept responsibility for the change.

Pat Casey, Indiana Marine Trades Association, says the Association favors a longer summer break so that tourism can be increased, as well as sales.

Tina Bruno, Coalition for a Traditional School Calendar, distributed information concerning historic research into school summer vacations, learning in year-round schools, research into school reform proposals, economic data concerning longer summer vacations, and other issues related to school start dates. (Exhibit I)

Dick Thompson, Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus and Indiana Association of Fairs, Festivals and Events, as well as representing himself as a former principal, pointed out that tourism and the tax dollars generated by it suffers when school starts at an earlier date. Many businesses depend on summer revenue generated by tourism. In addition, students and teachers lose opportunities to earn money at summer jobs. (Exhibit J)

Joy Rothrock, Indiana State Fair Commission, stated that she regards the county and state fairs as hands-on educational activities. Earlier school start dates reduce the number of attendees at the fair on weekdays, although some students and teachers attend on field

trips.

Frank Bush, ISBA and IPSSA, stated IPSSA has a concern with Rep. Dvorak's introduced bill from the 2009 legislative session, and would prefer to increase the number of school days rather than increasing the length of school days. ISBA does not have an official position on school start and end dates, seeing it as a local decision. Teacher collective bargaining agreements are a factor in determining school start and end dates at the local level.

Chuck Little, IUSA, stated that school start days are primarily a local decision, but perhaps non-instructional activities that are part of the school year could be conducted before the official start date for students.

Gail Zeheralis, ISTA, believes that school start dates and other calendar flexibility issues can be dealt with by counting hours of instructional time rather than days.

Derek Redelman, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, stated that while the Chamber does not have a position on school start dates, it would be very concerned about reducing the number of instructional days or the amount of instructional time.

Sally Sloan, Indiana Federation of Teachers, welcomes the discussion held on the school start date issues and calendar flexibility, and is willing to work with the legislature on the matter.

Dr. Bob Pychinka, Indiana Association of School Principals, explained that his Association feels school start dates should be left as a local decision.

Stuart Showalter, Indiana Custodial Rights Advocates, feels that children need ongoing contact with both parents, and that moves to compact the school year could interfere with custodial arrangements and opportunities for time with parents.

John Livengood, Indiana Hotel and Lodging Association and Indiana Restaurant Association, testified that the hospitality industry is in favor of a more traditional school calendar with a later school start date. Earlier school start dates interfere with one of the busiest months of the tourist season, causing a significant loss of revenue to the hospitality industry. (Exhibit K)

Beth Wyrick, concerned parent, stated that her local school board was unwilling to listen to her concerns about early school start dates. She feels a state mandated later school start date would allow families to enjoy summers together.

Lisa Donati, concerned parent, testified that a more traditional school calendar would allow children to develop in areas other than academic areas, in addition to allowing families more time together, and impact the local tourist industry positively.

Arlene Waitkins, retired educator and concerned citizen, feels a later school start date allows high school students to earn more money towards college, as well as allowing certain businesses to remain open later in the year.

Sara LaGambina-Lockwitz, concerned parent, is in favor of a flexible school calendar, with the number of days in a school year being determined by local school boards with the support of the local community.

Christine Kramer, concerned parent, Center Grove Community, feels that decisions

concerning the start of the school year and calendar flexibility should be left at the local level. She discussed Malcolm Gladwell's book *The Outliers*, in which a study of the progress of students who were tracked by socio-economic class is discussed. The conclusion drawn by the study was that some students would benefit from additional school days, while others would not. (Exhibit L)

Randy Ballinger, Walnut Creek Golf Course and Indiana Golf Course Owners Association, pointed out that early school start dates make it difficult to hire and train students. He believes all seasonal businesses will have similar problems.

The Chair distributed two preliminary drafts, PD 3111 and PD 3112, (Exhibits M and N), for the Committee to think about for the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on October 26, 2009, at 1:00 p.m in Room 233 of the Indiana State House.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.